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Hitchin Urban District Council.

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ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1957

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THE HISTORY OF THE



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OF THE

OF THE

HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T S

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1957

HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1957 - 1958

COUNCILLORS:

G. R. J. Chenery, J.P.

Chairman of the Council

D. J. Russell

Vice-Chairman

Chairman - Public Health Committee - T. Brooker

W. C. Ainsley

J. T. Barker

F. B. Bowker, M.B.E.

G. F. Hendry

W. A. Hill, J.P.

J. C. Lindsell

F. A. Millard, J.P.

G. A. Parsons

D. Stapleton

Mrs. E. L. Swinburne

G. W. Thake

K. B. Warwick

W. WILSON, F.C.C.S.

Clerk of the Council

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1957

Medical Officer of Health :

VICTOR R. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.
(Also Divisional M.O. for North Herts.)

Senior Public Health Inspector :

NORMAN HOLT, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.
Certs.R.S.Health (1. Meat and Foods 2. Smoke)

Additional Public Health Inspectors :

JEFFREY BOWMAN SIDEBOTTOM, M.A.P.H.I. (As from 1st February, 1957).
Certs.R.S.Health (Meat and Foods)

JOHN SAVILLE, M.A.P.H.I.
Certs.R.S.Health (Meat and Foods)

Clerical Staff:

MRS. D. A. READ

MRS. D. E. ADAMS

Offices :

Medical Officer of Health:

Divisional Health Office, 12 Brand Street, Hitchin.

Tel: 3757

Senior Public Health Inspector:

Council Offices, Brand Street, Hitchin.

Tel: 4471-5

HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1957

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mrs. Swinburne and Gentlemen,

I submit the above report prepared on the direction of Ministry Circular 1/58.

For the year 1957 the local birth rate (14.5) is lower than that for England and Wales (16.1) while the local death rate (10.1) is again favourable, having regard to the age distribution of the local population on the supplied comparability factor (0.93). Stillbirth and infant mortality rates when added together correspond closely with the sum of the national figures.

On the instruction of the Ministry effort is made to amplify reports on food inspection, registration of food premises and on measures to improve food hygiene.

I would acknowledge having received during the year every assistance from your Council and its chief officers, particularly from Mr. Holt, your Senior Public Health Inspector, who is responsible for the attached report on sanitary matters.

Your obedient servant,

V. R. WALKER

District Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1958.

SECTION A.

LOCAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,850
Home population - Registrar General's Estimate for mid-1957	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21,300
Number of inhabited houses at 1st April, 1958	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,960
Rateable value as at 1st April, 1958	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£282,637
Estimated Product of a Penny Rate for 1958/59	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£ 1,183

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

1957

				HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT	Comparable Rates for England and Wales
<u>LIVE BIRTHS:</u>	Totals	Males	Females		
Legitimate	296	164	132		
Illegitimate	13	10	3		
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>		
All	309	174	135		
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>		
Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population..	..	..	..	14.5	16.1

STILL BIRTHS:

Legitimate	8	7	1		
Illegitimate	1	-	1		
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>		
	9	7	2		
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>		
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births				28.3	22.4

DEATHS:

	216	105	111		
Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population..	..	..	..	10.1	11.5

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

All infants per 1,000 live births..	..	..	..	19.4	23.0
Rate for legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	..	..	20.3		
Rate for illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	..	..	NIL		

Actual number of such deaths :-

(a) under 4 weeks and (b) at all ages
under 1 year

Legitimate	2	6
Illegitimate	-	-
All	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>
Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth or abortion		-
Deaths from Cancer (all sites)		50
Deaths from Measles		-
Deaths from Whooping Cough		-
Deaths from other infective and parasitic diseases		-

COMMENT ON LOCAL VITAL STATISTICS

The estimate by the Registrar General of local mid-year population shows a further rise of 660.

Only two deaths were finally allocated to Tuberculosis (all forms).

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

These are unchanged.

SECTIONS C - E.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA, HOUSING AND INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Full reports on the above are contained in the attached report of your Senior Public Health Inspector.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

For the year 1957 totals of acute infectious diseases (after correction) were: Measles 172; Whooping cough 59; Scarlet Fever 6; Acute anterior poliomyelitis 4; Puerperal pyrexia 5; Acute Encephalitis 2; Acute Pneumonia 4; Erysipelas 1; and Infective hepatitis 2.

Measles and Whooping cough had their main incidence in the first quarter.

Acute Pneumonia cases fell mostly in the fourth quarter as an accompaniment of the epidemic of Asian influenza.

Scarlet Fever cases were infrequent, sporadic and of mild duration, confined to children of infant and pre-school age.

The notified group of virus diseases affecting the nervous system - acute anterior poliomyelitis 4 (all non-paralytic) and acute encephalitis 2 - formed an interesting study. They would appear to have been probably all the same disease, the outbreak lasting from May till August and affecting mainly the North West quadrant of the town. Spread in two schools could be deduced, with multiple cases in some families showing nervous symptoms in quick succession. The cases admitted to hospitals generally showed a picture of benign lymphocytic meningitis, with the nervous symptoms suddenly terminating in rapid and complete recovery. From three of the hospital admissions Virus E.C.H.O. No. 9 was cultured from faeces and from no case was Poliomyelitis Virus isolated. Considerably more cases were seen by practitioners than were notified, as short expectant treatment was found to result in rapid spontaneous recovery. No complications have been reported and it is reasonable to consider that no case of genuine anterior poliomyelitis occurred in Hitchin during the year. In its general character the infection corresponded closely with those outbreaks of illness with nervous symptoms variously labelled in recent years 'Trent Valley Fever' and 'Nottingham Disease'.

No notification of Food poisoning was received during the year.

Diphtheria was again absent for another year. Nevertheless the offer of immunisation against this formerly dreaded disease continues to be accepted by a good proportion of parents. The offer of vaccination against Whooping cough for children under 2 years also continues to be widely accepted.

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TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Deaths during the year 1957

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-(4)	-	-(1)	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	1(2)	1(1)	-	1	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-(4)	-	-(1)	1	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	1	-(3)	-	1	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	2	-(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-(1)	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and over	2(1)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not known	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:	6+(8)	3+(9)	-(1)	3+(1)	1	-	-	-
Deaths allocated by the Registrar General after final transfers					1	-	-	1

Footnote: In addition to the new cases first notified within the district there is shown in brackets additional figures of cases transferred to the local register from other areas.

Comment: New notifications in locally domiciled persons are seen to number 9 respiratory and 3 non-respiratory, compared with 15 and 2 for the previous year.
Deaths number 2, one elderly male respiratory case and one non-respiratory (female) re-allocated by the Registrar General.

V. R. WALKER.

District Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1958.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1957

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mrs. Swinburne and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my sixteenth Annual Report upon the work carried out by the Public Health Department during the year ending 31st December, 1957.

From 1st February, the department had a full complement of public health inspectors and it was again found possible to visit food premises frequently and secure conformity with the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955. A high standard of food hygiene in food premises is only maintained when the public health inspector is able to make regular and frequent visits.

The coming into operation of the Rent Act, 1957, during the year resulted in a certain amount of extra work for the department. Thirty-four applications for certificates of disrepair were made by tenants, thirty-two were granted and two applications were withdrawn. In 1957 the Council decided to make improvement grants in respect of fourteen houses which in total amounted to approximately £1662. Nine of the grants were made to owner-occupiers. The Council also decided to make improvement grants amounting to £6943 to assist in the provision of twenty-two flats for elderly persons at the Biggin and St. Saviour's Almshouses.

I again express my thanks to the staff for their valuable assistance and to all the Council's officials for their continued co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

N. HOLT

Senior Public Health Inspector.

June, 1958.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' VISITS

AND NOTICES SERVED DURING

THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st 1957

NATURE OF VISIT OR INSPECTION

GENERAL SANITATION

Water Supply	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	162
Public Conveniences	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Stables and Piggeries	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28
Moveable Dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	82
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	218
Workplaces	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Outworkers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Refuse and Salvage Collection	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	189
Refuse Disposal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	167
Rats and Mice	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
Smoke observations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Boiler Plants	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34
Schools	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	140
Petroleum installations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	94
Swimming Pools	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
Pet Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Miscellaneous Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	911

HOUSING

Under Public Health Acts :-

Number of houses inspected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42
Visits paid to above houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	357

Under Housing Acts :-

Number of houses inspected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	79
Visits paid to above houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	412

Overcrowding :-

Number of houses inspected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Visits paid to above houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	44

Verminous Premises :-

Number of houses inspected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Visits paid to above houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Inquiries in cases of I.D.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Visits re: disinfection	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Inspection of Meat :-

Visits to Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	715
Visits to Shops and Stalls	5

Food Inspection :-

Visits to Shops and Stalls	39
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Visits to :-

Butchers	81
Fishmongers and Poulterers	32
Fish Friers	19
Grocers	239
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	43
Dairies and Milkshops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	62
Ice Cream Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45
Food Preparing Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Market Stalls	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	707
Restaurants, Canteens, etc	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	259
Licensed Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Street Vendors and Hawkers Carts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	46

Visits in Connection with Sampling (Bacteriological) :-

Milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	94
Ice Cream	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	141
Miscellaneous Food Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10

NOTICES SERVED

Number of Informal Notices served	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	283
Number of Informal Notices complied with	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	203
Number of Statutory Notices served	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3

IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS.

HOUSES, ETC.

Houses painted externally	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Roofs repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Roof timbers repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Flashings repaired or replaced	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Chimney stacks pointed or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Eavesgutters repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Walls where damp-proof course provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Walls pointed or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Walls cement rendered	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Door steps provided or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Doors provided, repaired or replaced (external)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Doors provided, repaired or replaced (internal)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Door fasteners repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Windows provided, repaired or replaced	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	47
Window sash cords provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Window fasteners provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Rooms where ventilation improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Rooms where dampness remedied	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Rooms where wallplaster repaired or replaced	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
Rooms redecorated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Rooms where ceiling plaster repaired or replaced	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Additional bedrooms provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Floors relaid or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Staircases repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Firegrates provided or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Houses where water supply provided inside the house	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Hot water systems provided or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
New baths provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Trapped bath waste pipes provided or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
New wash basins provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Trapped wash basin waste pipes provided or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
New sinks provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Trapped sink waste pipes provided or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Washing boilers repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

Drainage :-

New drains constructed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Old drains reconstructed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Drains repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Drains cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37

Inspection chambers provided or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	27
Inspection chamber covers provided	..	..	..	..	..	4
Self cleansing gullies provided	..	..	..	..	..	7
Soil pipes provided or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	2
Vent pipes provided or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	6
Fresh air inlets provided or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	2

Water Closets :-

W.Cs. where walls repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
New basins fixed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
W.Cs. where connections repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cisterns repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
New flush pipes fixed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
W.C. seats repaired or replaced	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
W.Cs. ventilated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
W.Cs. decorated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Floors repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

MISCELLANEOUS

New dustbins provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	474
Accumulations of refuse removed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. (i) Water.

With the exception of one or two outlying houses, which have a satisfactory private supply, Hitchin obtains water from a piped supply controlled by the Council. I am indebted to Mr. S. Davey, Water Engineer, for the following information.

Water is obtained, at the present time, from three wells, Well Head and Temple End, situated in the village of Charlton within the Urban District and Oughton Head situated on the boundary of Pirton just outside the Urban District. An adequate supply is maintained from the above sources and no restrictions on supply are in force or anticipated. The subsoil of the district is mainly chalk.

The Council supply water in bulk to the Hitchin Rural District Council for the areas of Ickleford and Cadwell, and also give supplies when required, for St. Ippolyts, Cosmore, Pirton and Holwell areas.

The highest standard of purity has been maintained throughout the year. Regular samples are sent to the Council's analysts in London and also to the Public Health Laboratories at Luton.

The water from Well Head and Temple End wells is chlorinated and de-chlorinated at the Queen Street Pumping Station before being pumped into supply. The water from Oughton Head is chlorinated and a residual of .15 p.p.m. is passed into supply.

During the past year the Council have sunk another bore at Offley Bottom and are now awaiting sanction to proceed with the scheme.

The water from the wells being hard, no trouble is experienced due to plumbo-solvency.

The number of dwelling houses supplied with water from public mains direct into the houses is 6,813, serving approximately 20,848 persons, whilst the number of dwelling houses supplied with water from public mains by means of stand-pipes is 107, serving approximately 327 persons. In the case of 39 houses the water supply is provided in an outbuilding. One house obtains its water supply from a well.

(ii) Drainage and Sewerage.

Extensions to the sewers were carried out during the year on the Oakfield and Westmill housing estates.

2. Rivers and Streams.

No action taken.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation.

With the exception of 15 of the 25 houses comprising the main village of Charlton, and a few outlying premises, the whole of the district is provided with waterclosets, which, excluding a few waterclosets discharging into cesspools, are connected to the Council's sewers. The 15 houses mentioned above are provided with pail closets.

(ii) Public Cleansing.

The Council maintains a weekly collection of house refuse throughout the greater part of the year. It is only during the week following a Bank Holiday and when a number of workmen are absent due to sickness that the regularity of the service is disturbed. To keep the day of collection the same in each week it is necessary after Bank Holidays to miss the number of days collection corresponding to the duration of the holiday. This means that a number of houses have to store refuse for two weeks. The exception to this scheme is after Christmas when refuse is heavy and plentiful, the system then is not to miss certain roads, but to follow the usual round until at least one clearance per premises has been made since

the holiday. The day or days when collection is not carried out after Bank Holidays are worked out on a rota so that Monday is not always the usual day missed. During the financial year 1957/58 the Council were limited by the board mills to the sale of 32 tons of wastepaper per month. Approximately 384 tons of wastepaper were sold and it was not found necessary to destroy any.

(iii) Public Health Inspection of the Area. See pages 7, 8, 9 and 10.

(iv) Shops and Offices.

Regarding shops, six sanitary conveniences were improved or decorated. In the case of one shop a watercloset basin was provided.

(v) Camping Sites.

At 31st December, 1957, there were 4 sites in the area where moveable dwellings were stationed under licence of the Council.

1. Two sites licensed to stand 48 and 19 mobile trailer caravans respectively, provided with waterclosets, main drainage, bathrooms and laundries. Water and electricity are laid on into each caravan.
2. One site licensed to stand 10 mobile trailer caravans provided with waterclosets, main drainage and water supply.
3. One site licensed to stand 2 mobile trailer caravans provided with main drainage and water supply.

Five persons were each licensed to stand a mobile trailer caravan and were provided with a main water supply and a readily accessible drainage system.

(vi) Clean Air.

Certain provisions of the Clean Air Act, 1956, came into operation from 31st December, 1956, including provisions relating to the installation of new furnaces, smoke control areas, the height of chimneys and the making of a building byelaw. The plans and specifications of one new installation were approved during the year. The Council also adopted Building Byelaw No. 106(a) which requires the provision, in a new building, of only such appliances for heating or cooking as are suitably designed for burning smokeless fuels.

Numerous observations of chimneys were made during 1957, together with advisory visits to the boiler plants concerned.

(vii) Swimming Baths.

There are two swimming baths in the district, (a) a public open-air swimming bath maintained by the Council, comprising a main pool and a children's pool, and (b) a private open-air swimming bath at the Girls' Grammar School.

120 samples of water in the two pools at the Council's bath were taken, 60 being submitted to a bacteriological examination and 60 to a residual chlorine test. All the samples were reported upon as satisfactory.

The County Health Department took samples of the water in the Girls' Grammar School bath during the year.

(viii) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

(a) Council houses found to be infested	..	..	-
(b) Other houses found to be infested	..	..	1

The infested house was disinfested, a service which the Council carried out free of cost.

4. Schools.

No action taken.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	..	121
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	..	769
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	..	33
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	..	33
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation		33

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 4

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers .. 48

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957:

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs -
- (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:
 - (a) By Owners -
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners -

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. 1
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices : .. .
 - (a) By Owners 2
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners -

(C) Proceedings under Sections 16, 17, 23 and Part 3 of the Housing Act, 1957 :

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 28
- (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders -
- (3) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Clearance or Compulsory Purchase Orders -

(D) Proceedings under Sections 16, 17, 18 and 28 of the Housing Act, 1957 :

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made -

(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit	-
(3)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	5
(4)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were revoked and Demolition Orders made	4

4. OVERCROWDING.

(a)	(1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	11
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	13
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	76
(b)	(1)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	5
(c)	(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	9
	(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	38
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding:	
	(1)	Number of cases	-
	(2)	Number of families concerned	-
	(3)	Number of persons	-

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

Five persons carry on the trade of distributors of milk in the district and three premises are used as dairies. All are registered with this authority in accordance with the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

The table below shows the annual licenses issued by this authority for the sale of designated milk:

Dealer's licences.

Tuberculin Tested (bottled at dairy)	..	..	4
Sterilised (received in bottle)	..	..	3
Pasteurised .. .. .	..	..	2

Supplementary licences:

Tuberculin Tested .. .. .	..	..	1
Sterilised .. .. .	..	..	1

In addition, three dairies in the district hold licences granted by the County Council to pasteurise milk. Two dairies pasteurise by the 'High Temperature Short Time' method and the other by the 'Holder' method. All the milk retailed in the district is heat treated.

Numerous inspections of dairies were made during the year under the Milk and Dairies Regulations.

During the year 105 samples of milk were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination with the following results :-

<u>Number of Samples</u>	<u>Class of milk</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Percentage Satisfactory</u>
47	Pasteurised	47	-	100%
47	Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	47	-	100%
11	Sterilised	11	-	100%

The majority of the samples were bottled milks taken in the course of delivery to the consumer.

(b) Meat and Foods.

Two slaughterhouses are licensed by the Council to slaughter animals, (a) the Herts. and Beds. Co-operative Bacon Factory where extensive slaughtering of pigs is carried out, and (b) a slaughterhouse where a small number of cattle, sheep and pigs are slaughtered annually. 57,444 pigs were killed and inspected at the Bacon Factory during the year. A system of detention is in operation at this slaughterhouse.

The following table gives details of the number of animals killed, inspected and found to be diseased or unsound and unfit for food. The diseased or unsound meat is voluntarily surrendered and disposed of so as not to be used for human consumption.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ..	31	-	-	430	57,444	-
Number inspected	31	-	-	430	57,444	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	149	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	10	-	-	22	11,882	-
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysti- cerci	33.07	-	-	5.11	20.94	-
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>						
Whole carcasses con- demned	-	-	-	-	9	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	-	-	-	-	886	-
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	1.56	-
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrig- eration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and tot- ally condemned ..	-	-	-	-	-	-

The following table gives summarised information relating to the carcasses, offal, etc., condemned :-

(a) Private slaughterhouse		LBS
2	Beasts' livers.....Abscess	28
1	Beast's liver.....Angioma	14
1	Beast's liver.....Flukes	14
4	Beasts' livers (part).....Flukes	28
1	Beast's liver.....Cirrhosis	14
1	Beast's lung.....Pleurisy	6
19 $\frac{1}{2}$	Sheeps' livers.....Echinocosis	78
3	Sheeps' livers.....Fatty Degeneration	12
Total: 1 cwt 2 qrs 26 lbs		194

(b) Herts. and Beds. Co-operative Bacon Factory

Tuberculosis		
9	Pigs' carcasses	1351
567	Pigs' heads and tongues	7217
188	Pigs' stomachs	1504
31	Pigs' plucks	186
91	Pigs' mesenteric fats	45
5	Pigs' miscellaneous parts and trimmings ..	87
		10,390

Other Diseases		
8	Pigs' carcasses.....Septic Pneumonia	692
36	Pigs' carcasses.....Fevered	4770
15	Pigs' carcasses.....Moribund	2780
1	Pig's carcass.....Carcinoma	56
2	Pigs' carcasses.....Septic Mastitis	644
1	Pig's carcass.....Gangrenous	258
1	Pig's carcass.....Uraemia	418
4	Pigs' carcasses.....Immaturity	77
1	Pig's carcass.....Damaged	81
1	Pig's carcass.....Leukaemia	110
1	Pig's carcass.....Septic Pericarditis	312
3	Pigs' carcasses.....Septic Peritonitis	348
27	Pigs' carcasses.....Oedema	1196
4	Pigs' carcasses.....Pyæmia	534
2	Pigs' carcasses.....Jaundice	275
17	Pigs' carcasses.....Emaciation	1431
2	Pigs' carcasses.....Extensive Bruising	253

11	Pigs' carcasses.....	Septicaemia	1823
10	Pigs' carcasses.....	Multiple Abscesses	1630
$\frac{1}{2}$	Pig's carcass.....	Multiple Abscesses	76
773	Pigs' hearts.....	Pericarditis	458
6731	Pigs' lungs.....	Congestion	19971
2476	Pigs' livers.....	Cirrhosis	9904
2	Pigs' livers.....	Fatty Change	8
140	Pigs' stomachs.....	Inflammation	1120
1490	Pigs' kidneys.....	Nephritis, cysts, etc.	424
17	Pigs' fillets.....	Bruising	17
15	Pigs' fores.....	Broken, Abscesses, Bruising, etc.	188
76	Pigs' legs.....	Broken, Abscesses, Bruising, etc.	1544
3	Pigs' collars and shoulders.....	Broken, Abscesses	100
58	Pigs' hocks.....	Arthritis	141
16	Pigs' flares.....	Inflammation	18
	Miscellaneous parts, trimmings.....	Various traumatic conditions	863
			<hr/> 65,582 <hr/>

Total: 29 tons 5 cwts 1 qr 25 lbs

Numerous visits were made to butchers' shops, food shops and other food preparing premises. The following quantities of foodstuffs were also found to be unsound and unfit for food, were voluntarily surrendered by the owners and disposed of so as not to be used for human consumption.

Meat from Butchers' Shops.

Top Rump.....	Decomposition	95
Beef.....	Decomposition	135
Topside.....	Bone Taint	64
Steak.....	Decomposition	80
Lamb.....	Decomposition	56
Liver.....	Decomposition	25
Total: 4 cwts 0 qrs 7 lbs		<hr/> 455 <hr/>

General.

Miscellaneous tinned meats	..	..	..	..	..	299 $\frac{3}{4}$
Miscellaneous tinned and packed foods	..	..	..	..	..	638 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fish.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	42
Tinned Ham	..	..	..	..	..	135 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total: 9 cwts 1 qr 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs						<hr/> 1045 $\frac{3}{4}$

Grand Total of Foodstuffs condemned (all classes)

30 tons 0 cwts 0 qrs 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs

ICE CREAM:

The number of premises registered under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the storage and sale of ice cream is 64. Frequent visits were made to the foregoing premises to enforce the provision of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947, and for the purpose of sampling. 110 samples were taken, the results of which follow :-

Grade 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	106	} Satisfactory
Grade 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	
Grade 3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	} Unsatisfactory
Grade 4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN.

1. There are 279 food premises in the area consisting of 66 grocers, 23 confectioners (sweets), 9 confectioners (cakes, etc.), 20 green-grocers, 5 fish-friers, 7 fish-mongers, 2 poulterers, 21 butchers, 59 restaurant kitchens, 6 food factories, 8 bakehouses, 50 licensed premises and 3 warehouses, the latter being used for the storage of food only.
2. The following premises are registered under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955, 17 butchers (for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pickled, pressed or preserved food), 1 butcher (for the pickling of meat), 2 fishmongers (for the preservation of fish), 4 food factories (for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pickled, pressed or preserved food).
Regarding ice cream, the following are registered for the storage and sale of ice cream, 32 grocers, 5 greengrocers, 15 confectioners (sweets), and 12 general premises.
Three dairies are registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949.
3. Regarding inspection of food premises see below:
4. Condemned food is disposed of at the premises of the Herts. and Beds. Co-operative Bacon Factory, where it is processed in a digester plant.
5. The following improvements were carried out during the year to premises used for the preparation, sale, etc., of food :-

Washing facilities.

Number of new sinks provided	..	..	..	..	..	13
Number of trapped waste pipes provided	..	..	..	..	..	4
Number of new washbasins provided	..	..	..	..	..	27
Number of defective washbasins renewed	..	..	..	..	..	1

Number of new draining boards provided	8
Number of fitments provided with running hot and cold water	17
Number of double sink units provided	1

Structural Work.

Number of rooms where walls repaired or improved ...	10
Number of rooms where ventilation improved	3
Number of rooms where ceilings repaired or renewed ..	3
Number of rooms where floors repaired or improved ..	9
Number of rooms where walls decorated	19
Number of rooms where ceilings decorated	19
Number of rooms where woodwork decorated	15
Number of rooms where new floor coverings provided ..	1
Number of rooms where lighting improved	4
Number of rooms where intervening ventilated space provided	4

Equipment.

Number of premises where "Wash Hands" notices provided	95
Number of premises where new dustbins provided ..	1
Number of premises where new equipment provided ..	9
Number of premises where food storage improved ..	1
Number of premises where new counter tops installed	15
Number of premises where equipment renovated	17

Food Hygiene.

Number of premises where glass screening provided ..	2
Number of premises where suitable cloakroom facilities provided	5
Number of premises where soap and towels provided ..	18
Number of premises where first aid box provided ..	16
Number of premises where walls and floors, etc. cleansed	8

Kitchen Utensils - Bacteriological Swabs.

During 1957, 65 swabs of kitchen utensils were taken for bacteriological examination.

Each swab is cultivated for two different times and temperatures and bacterial counts made. No official standard is laid down but a utensil is regarded as satisfactory if the average of both counts is

not more than 100 organisms per utensil and faecal coliform is absent. 37 swabs contained less than 100 organisms per utensil and 28 swabs were in excess of that figure. Faecal coliform was present in two swabs. Careful checks were made of utensil cleansing techniques and advice given regarding sterilisation. This occasional swabbing of kitchen utensils is a good way of demonstrating poor hygiene and cleansing methods.

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FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1957

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories
Act, 1937

PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	31	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	139	-	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	6	-	-	-
TOTAL	176	-	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	14	14	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	36	36	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	51	51	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT
OUTWORK (SECTIONS 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	Number of Outworkers in August list required by Section 110(1)c	Number of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	Number of instances of work in unwholesome premises	No-tices served	Pro-secu-tions
Wearing apparel making, etc.	84	-	-	-	-	-